Woo Jong Taek



Woo Jong-Taek (b. 1973, Yongin, Korea) is a Korean contemporary painter whose practice reinterprets the philosophical and material traditions of Korean ink painting through contemporary abstraction.

Working with traditional ink alongside charcoal powder, rosin, and white clay, he constructs richly textured compositions through an intensely physical process of layering and gestural application. His paintings explore the relationship between matter, nature, and existence, extending the meditative foundations of sumukhwa (ink-and-wash painting) into a distinctive language of material expression.

Guided by the concept of *Memory of Origin,* Woo investigates the primordial forces underlying the natural world, approaching painting as both a physical act and a philosophical inquiry. His work occupies a distinctive position within contemporary Korean painting, bridging East Asian artistic traditions with the expressive possibilities of abstraction. He received his B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Oriental Painting from Chung-Ang University, completed doctoral studies at Sungshin Women's University, and is currently a Professor of Korean Painting at Incheon National University.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026 — Gallery Kki, Paju, Korea (curated by Total Museum)

2025 — Between Matter and Soul, Soluna Fine Art, Hong Kong

2025 — BODE Galerie, Frankfurt, Germany

2024 — The Wondrous Existence of the Beginningless Vast Eon, Total Museum, Seoul, Korea

2018 — Memory of Origin, Forum Kunst Contemporary, Millstatt, Austria

2017 — Memory of Origin, BODE Galerie, Nuremberg, Germany

Selected Collections

National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea; Kumho Museum of Art, Seoul; Incheon Foundation for Arts & Culture; Incheon National University;